

IB Diploma Programme

Course Choices and Menus 2020-22



Structure of the IB diploma programme



COMMON ELEMENTS

- **Diploma Core:**

- Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)
- Extended Essay (EE)
- Theory of Knowledge (TOK)

- **Learner Profile**

- **ATL skills**

- **Concepts, contexts, content**

- **International-mindedness**



Group 1: language and literature

Group 2: language acquisition

Group 3: individuals and societies

Group 4: sciences

Group 5: mathematics

Group 6: the arts

Group 1: Language and Literature

Language A: literature

In the language A: literature course, students will learn about the various manifestations of literature as a powerful mode of writing across cultures and throughout history. They will explore and develop an understanding of factors that contribute to the production and reception of literature, such as the creativity of writers and readers, the nature of the interaction with the writers' and readers' respective contexts and with literary tradition, the ways in which language can give rise to meaning and/or effect, the performative and transformative potential of literary creation and response.

Language A: language and literature

In the language A: language and literature course, students will learn about the complex and dynamic nature of language and explore both its practical and aesthetic dimensions. They will explore the crucial role language plays in communication, reflecting experience and shaping the world. Students will also learn about their own roles as producers of language and develop their productive skills. Throughout the course, students will explore the various ways in which language choices, text types, literary forms and contextual elements all effect meaning.

Group 2: Language Acquisition

Students develop their ability to communicate in the target language through the study of language, themes and texts. In doing so, they also develop conceptual understandings of how language works, as appropriate to the level of the course.

Language B

Language B is a language acquisition course designed for students with some previous experience of the target language

Language *ab initio*

Language *ab initio* is a language acquisition course designed for students with no prior experience of the target language. It should be noted that language *ab initio* is offered at SL only

Group 3: Individuals and Societies

Social and Cultural Anthropology

Social and cultural anthropology is the comparative study of culture and human societies. Anthropologists seek an understanding of humankind in all its diversity. This understanding is reached through the study of societies and cultures and the exploration of the general principles of social and cultural life, placing special emphasis on comparative perspectives that make explicit our own cultural assumptions and those of others.

Economics

Economics is a dynamic social science. The study of economics is essentially about dealing with scarcity, resource allocation and the methods and processes by which choices are made in the satisfaction of human wants. As a social science, economics uses scientific methodologies that include quantitative and qualitative elements.

Geography

Geography is a dynamic subject that is firmly grounded in the real world and focuses on the interactions between individuals, societies and physical processes in both time and space. It seeks to identify trends and patterns in these interactions. It also investigates the way in which people adapt and respond to change, and evaluates actual and possible management strategies associated with such change.

History

History is a dynamic, contested, evidence-based discipline that involves an exciting engagement with the past. It is a rigorous intellectual discipline, focused around key historical concepts such as change, causation and significance. History is an exploratory subject that fosters a sense of inquiry.

Information Technology in a Global Society (ITGS)

The ITGS course is the study and evaluation of the impacts of information technology on individuals and society. It explores the advantages and disadvantages of the access and use of digitized information at the local and global level. ITGS provides a framework for the student to make informed judgments and decisions about the use of IT within social contexts.

Group 4: Sciences

Biology

Biology is the study of life. Biologists attempt to understand the living world at all levels using many different approaches and techniques. At one end of the scale is the cell, its molecular construction and complex metabolic reactions. At the other end of the scale biologists investigate the interactions that make whole ecosystems function

Chemistry

Chemistry is an experimental science that combines academic study with the acquisition of practical and investigational skills. It is often called the central science, as chemical principles underpin both the physical environment in which we live and all biological systems.

Physics

Physics is the most fundamental of the experimental sciences, as it seeks to explain the universe itself from the very smallest particles—currently accepted as quarks, which may be truly fundamental—to the vast distances between galaxies.

Computer Science

Computer science requires an understanding of the fundamental concepts of computational thinking as well as knowledge of how computers and other digital devices operate.

Group 5: Mathematics

Mathematics: analysis and approaches (A&A)

Students who choose Mathematics: analysis and approaches at SL or HL should be comfortable in the manipulation of algebraic expressions and enjoy the recognition of patterns and understand the mathematical generalization of these patterns. Students who wish to take Mathematics: analysis and approaches at higher level will have strong algebraic skills and the ability to understand simple proof. They will be students who enjoy spending time with problems and get pleasure and satisfaction from solving challenging problems.

Mathematics: applications and interpretation (A&I)

This course caters for students who already possess knowledge of basic mathematical concepts, and who are equipped with the skills needed to apply simple mathematical techniques correctly. The majority of these students will expect to need a sound mathematical background as they prepare for future studies in subjects such as chemistry, economics, psychology and business administration.

Group 6: The Arts

Visual Arts

The visual arts are an integral part of everyday life, permeating all levels of human creativity, expression, communication and understanding. They range from traditional forms embedded in local and wider communities, societies and cultures, to the varied and divergent practices associated with new, emerging and contemporary forms of visual language. They may have sociopolitical impact as well as ritual, spiritual, decorative and functional value; they can be persuasive and subversive in some instances, enlightening and uplifting in others

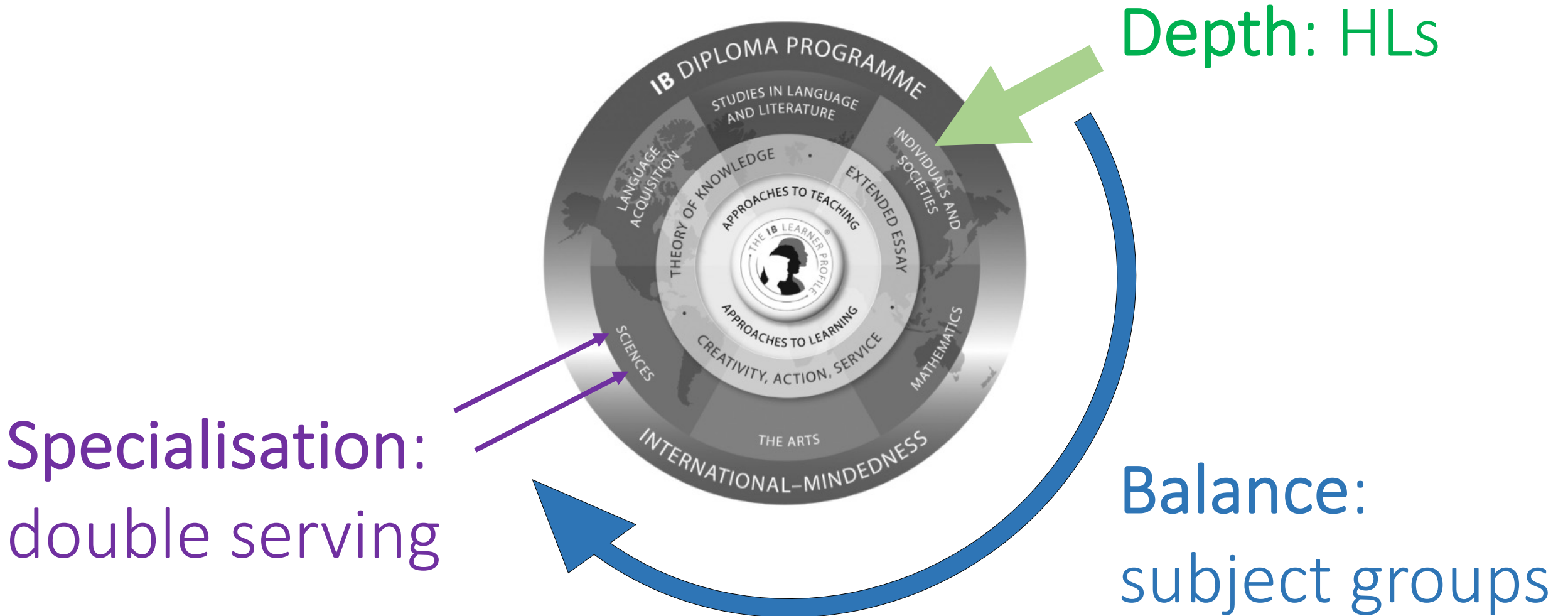
Theatre

Theatre is a dynamic, collaborative and live art form. It is a practical subject that encourages discovery through experimentation, the taking of risks and the presentation of ideas to others. It results in the development of both theatre and life skills; the building of confidence, creativity and working collaboratively. The Theatre course gives students the opportunity to make theatre as creators, designers, directors and performers. It emphasizes the importance of working both individually and collaboratively as part of an ensemble. It offers the opportunity to engage actively in the creative process, transforming ideas into action as inquisitive and productive artists.

Music

Music is an essential part of the human experience and a unique mode of creativity, expression and communication. Music is both functional and meaningful, and its vitality and complexity enriches our lives. Though music is rooted in specific societies and cultures, it also transcends—and often connects—them. Music not only offers a way of understanding the world, but also a means by which we can express and share our understanding of it with others. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to explore music in varied and sometimes unfamiliar contexts. Additionally, by experimenting with music, students gain hands-on experience while honing musical skills.

Features of the DP



BALANCE VS SPECIALISATION



Balance is achieved through the required distribution of subject groups
Specialisation is achieved through the choice of 6th subject

Language & Literature	Language Acquisition	Individuals and Societies	Science	Mathematics	Arts
1	2	3	4	5	6
A	B	C	D E	F	

Language & Literature	Language Acquisition	Individuals and Societies	Science	Mathematics	Arts
1	2	3	4	5	6
A	B	C D	E	F	

Language & Literature	Language Acquisition	Individuals and Societies	Science	Mathematics	Arts
1	2	3	4	5	6
A	B	C	D	E	F

DEPTH



Depth is achieved through the choice of higher level courses

Language & Literature	Language Acquisition	Individuals and Societies	Science	Mathematics	Arts
1	2	3	4	5	6
HL	SL	HL	SL	SL	

Language & Literature	Language Acquisition	Individuals and Societies	Science	Mathematics	Arts
1	2	3	4	5	6
SL	SL	SL	HL	HL	

Language & Literature	Language Acquisition	Individuals and Societies	Science	Mathematics	Arts
1	2	3	4	5	6
SL	HL	HL	SL	SL	HL

1	2	3	4	5	6
English A: literature HL	French B HL	Social & Cultural Anthropology HL	Biology HL	Mathematics HL Analysis & Approaches (A&A)	Visual Arts HL
English A: literature SL	French B SL	Social & Cultural Anthropology SL	Biology SL	Mathematics HL Applications & Interpretation (A&I)	Visual Arts SL
English A: language and literature SL	Spanish <i>ab initio</i> SL	Economics HL	Chemistry HL	Mathematics SL Analysis & Approaches (A&A)	Theatre HL
Amharic A: literature SL	Swahili B HL	Economics SL	Chemistry SL	Mathematics SL Applications & Interpretation (A&I)	Theatre SL
Swahili A: literature SL	Swahili <i>ab initio</i> SL	Geography HL	Physics HL		Music HL
French A: language and literature SL	English B HL	Geography SL	Physics SL		Music SL
		History HL	Computer Science HL		
		History SL	Computer Science SL		
		Information Technology in a Global Society HL			
		Information Technology in a Global Society SL			

1	2	3	4	5	6
English A: literature HL	French B HL	Social & Cultural Anthropology HL	Biology HL	Mathematics HL Analysis	Visual Arts HL
English A: literature SL	French B SL	Social & Cultural Anthropology SL	Biology SL	Mathematics HL Applications	Visual Arts SL
English A: language and literature SL	Spanish <i>ab initio</i> SL	Economics HL	Chemistry HL	Mathematics SL Analysis	Theatre HL
Amharic A: literature SL	Swahili B HL	Economics SL	Chemistry SL	Mathematics SL Applications	Theatre SL
Swahili A: literature SL	Swahili <i>ab initio</i> SL	Geography HL	Physics HL		Music HL
French A: language and literature SL	English B HL	Geography SL	Physics SL		Music SL
		History HL	Computer Science HL		
		History SL	Computer Science SL		
		Information Technology in a Global Society HL			
		Information Technology in a Global Society SL			

1	2	3	4	5	6
English A: literature HL	French B HL	Social & Cultural Anthropology HL	Biology HL	Mathematics HL Analysis	Visual Arts HL
English A: literature SL	French B SL	Social & Cultural Anthropology SL	Biology SL	Mathematics HL Applications	Visual Arts SL
English A: language and literature SL	Spanish <i>ab initio</i> SL	Economics HL	Chemistry HL	Mathematics SL Analysis	Theatre HL
Amharic A: literature SL	Swahili B HL	Economics SL	Chemistry SL	Mathematics SL Applications	Theatre SL
Swahili A: literature SL	Swahili <i>ab initio</i> SL	Geography HL	Physics HL		Music HL
French A: language and literature SL	English B HL	Geography SL	Physics SL		Music SL
		History HL	Computer Science HL		
		History SL	Computer Science SL		
		Information Technology in a Global Society HL			
		Information Technology in a Global Society SL			

1	2	3	4	5	6
English A: literature HL	French B HL	Social & Cultural Anthropology HL	Biology HL	Mathematics HL Analysis	Visual Arts HL
English A: literature SL	French B SL	Social & Cultural Anthropology SL	Biology SL	Mathematics HL Applications	Visual Arts SL
English A: language and literature SL	Spanish <i>ab initio</i> SL	Economics HL	Chemistry HL	Mathematics SL Analysis	Theatre HL
Amharic A: literature SL	Swahili B HL	Economics SL	Chemistry SL	Mathematics SL Applications	Theatre SL
Swahili A: literature SL	Swahili <i>ab initio</i> SL	Geography HL	Physics HL		Music HL
French A: language and literature SL	English B HL	Geography SL	Physics SL		Music SL
		History HL	Computer Science HL		
		History SL	Computer Science SL		
		Information Technology in a Global Society HL			
		Information Technology in a Global Society SL			

1	2	3	4	5	6
English A: literature HL	French B HL	Social & Cultural Anthropology HL	Biology HL	Mathematics HL Analysis	Visual Arts HL
English A: literature SL	French B SL	Social & Cultural Anthropology SL	Biology SL	Mathematics HL Applications	Visual Arts SL
English A: language and literature SL	Spanish <i>ab initio</i> SL	Economics HL	Chemistry HL	Mathematics SL Analysis	Theatre HL
Amharic A: literature SL	Swahili B HL	Economics SL	Chemistry SL	Mathematics SL Applications	Theatre SL
Swahili A: literature SL	Swahili <i>ab initio</i> SL	Geography HL	Physics HL		Music HL
French A: language and literature SL	English B HL	Geography SL	Physics SL		Music SL
		History HL	Computer Science HL		
		History SL	Computer Science SL		
		Information Technology in a Global Society HL			
		Information Technology in a Global Society SL			

Things to AVOID

- Spanish *ab initio* SL with prior knowledge of Spanish (not permitted)
- Mathematics SL applications and interpretation (A&I) and Physics HL together
- Mathematics SL applications and interpretation (A&I) and Computer Science HL together
- Information Technology in a Global Society (ITGS) and Computer Science together

Guiding Documents

1. **Diploma Programme Handbook 2021-23:** provides overviews of all available courses
2. **MYP to DP Course Transitions 2021-23:** guidance for minimum expectations for entry to each DP course
3. **Diploma Programme Menus 2021-23:** guidance for combining courses into an overall selection

Guidance: DP Handbook

SOS Hermann Gmeiner International College



Handbook for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

Class of 2023 Version

Senior Leadership Team

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Vice Principal: Mrs Adzo Asikie
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GROUP 2

English B Higher and Standard Level
French B Higher Level and Standard Level
Swahili B Higher Level and Standard Level, and *ab initio* SL
Spanish *ab initio* SL

Nature of the Subjects



Language *ab initio* and language B are language acquisition courses designed to provide students with the necessary skills and intercultural understanding to enable them to communicate successfully in an environment where the language studied is spoken. This process allows the learner to go beyond the confines of the classroom, expanding their awareness of the world and fostering respect for cultural diversity. The two modern language courses develop students' linguistic abilities through the development of receptive, productive and interactive skills.

Language B is a language acquisition course designed for students with some previous experience of the target language. In the language B course, students further develop their ability to communicate in the target language through the study of language, themes and texts. In doing so, they also develop conceptual understandings of how language works, as appropriate to the level of the course. Language *ab initio* is a language acquisition course designed for students with no prior experience of the target language, or for those students with very limited previous exposure. It should be noted that language *ab initio* is offered at SL only.

media. Each of the three commentaries should use a different key concept as a lens through which to analyse the published extracts.

External Examination 80%

Paper 1 1 hour and 15 minutes 20%

An extended response paper (25 marks). Syllabus content including HL extension material. Students answer one question from a choice of three.

Paper 2 1 hour and 45 minutes 30%

A data response paper. Syllabus content including HL extension material. Includes some quantitative questions. Students answer one question from a choice of two.

Paper 3 1 hour and 45 minutes 30%

A policy paper. Syllabus content including HL extension material. Includes both quantitative and qualitative questions. Students answer two compulsory questions.

Standard Level

Internal Assessment 30%

This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course. Students produce a portfolio of three commentaries, based on different units of the syllabus (excluding the introductory unit) and on published extracts from the news media. Each of the three commentaries should use a different key concept as a lens through which to analyse the published extracts.

External Examination 70%

Paper 1 1 hour and 15 minutes 30%

An extended response paper. Syllabus content (excluding HL extension material) Students answer one question from a choice of three.

Paper 2 1 hour and 45 minutes 40%

A data response paper. Syllabus content (excluding HL extension material). Includes some quantitative questions. Students answer one question from a choice of two.

Guidance: MYP to DP Course Transitions

COURSE(S)	REQUIRED PRIOR EXPERIENCE	RECOMMENDED MINIMUM MYP GRADE
English A lit HL	MYP English language and literature	6 in English LAL
Amharic A lit SL		No minimum – for Ethiopian students
Swahili A lit SL	MYP Swahili language and literature	Completion of Swahili LAL by Tanzanian students
French A la SL		No minimum – for continuing Burundian students
English B HL	MYP English language acquisition	
French B HL	MYP French language acquisition	6 in French LA phase 4; plus diagnostic test
French B SL	MYP French language acquisition	5 in French LA phase 3? To be discussed...
Language <i>ab initio</i> SL courses	No prior experience with language allowed	Not applicable
Swahili B HL		For Kenyan students without Swahili language and literature
History, Geography, Anthropology HLs	Any MYP individuals and societies course	
Economics HL	Any MYP individuals and societies course	Consider mathematics grades for quantitative aspects of DP economics
ITGS HL	Any MYP individuals and societies course	5 in any Individuals and Societies course; 5 in personal project

Biology HL	Any MYP science course	5 in Biology; or 6s in Chemistry and Physics in absence of Biology
Chemistry HL	Any MYP science course	5 in Chemistry; or 6s in Physics and Biology in absence of Chemistry
Physics HL	Any MYP science course	5 in Physics; or 6s in Chemistry and Biology in absence of Physics
Computer Science HL	MYP standard and extended mathematics	6s in both mathematics courses; 5 in design; 5 in personal project
Mathematics: analysis HL	MYP standard and extended mathematics	6s in both mathematics courses
Mathematics: applications HL	MYP standard and extended mathematics	[Course not currently offered]
Mathematics: analysis SL	MYP standard and extended mathematics	5s in both mathematics courses
Mathematics: applications SL	MYP standard and extended mathematics	No minimum
Visual Arts HL/SL	None required	
Theatre HL/SL	None required	
Music HL/SL	None required	

	1	2	3	4	5	6th
A	English LIT SL; English LAL SL	Any group 2 SL	Any group 3 SL	Chemistry HL	Mathematics HL A&A	Biology HL; Physics HL
B	English LIT SL; English LAL SL	Any group 2 SL	Any group 3 HL	Chemistry HL	Mathematics SL A&A	Biology HL; Physics HL
C	English LIT SL; English LAL SL	Any group 2 SL	Any group 3 HL	Biology HL; Chemistry HL	Mathematics SL A&A	Any group 3 HL
D	English LIT HL	Any group 2 SL	Any group 3 HL	Any group 4 SL	Mathematics SL A&I	Any group 3 HL; Arts HL
E	English LIT HL	Any group 2 SL	Any group 3 HL	Any group 4 HL	Mathematics SL A&A	Any group 3 SL; Arts SL
F	English LIT HL	French B HL	Any group 3 HL	Any group 4 SL	Mathematics SL A&I	Any group 3 SL; Arts SL
G	English LIT SL; English LAL SL	Any group 2 SL	Any group 3 HL	Any group 4 HL	Mathematics HL A&A	Any group 3 or 4 SL; Arts SL
H	English LIT HL	Any group 2 SL	Any group 3 HL	Any group 4 SL	Mathematics SL A&I	Any group 3 HL
I	English LIT SL; English LAL SL	Any group 2 SL	Any group 3 SL	Physics HL	Mathematics HL A&A	Computer Science HL
J	English LIT SL; English LAL SL	Any group 2 SL	Any group 3 HL	Any group 4 HL	Mathematics SL A&I	Arts HL
K (Ethiopia, Tanzania, Burundi)	Amharic LIT SL; Swahili LIT SL; French LAL SL	English B HL	Any group 3 HL	Any group 4 HL	Mathematics SL A&I	Any group 3 or 4 SL, Arts SL
L (Kenya)	English LIT SL; English LAL SL	Swahili B HL	Any group 3 HL	Any group 4 HL	Mathematics SL A&I	Any group 3 or 4 SL; Arts SL

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**SOS-HERMANN GMEINER
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE
PORTALS**

Back

DP Course Selection Process

Library Services

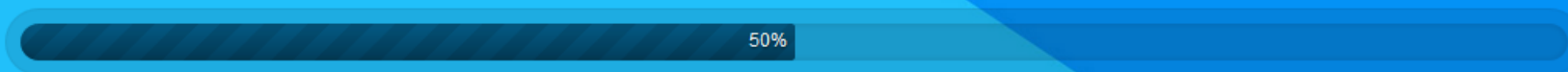
**Maintenance
Request**

**Incident
Report**

DP Course Selection Process

Select courses from the options provided.

Step 1 of 2



Student Name *

First

Middle

Last

Student email *

Parent / Guardian Name *

First

Middle

Last

Parent / Guardian email *

Next

Please study the menu below carefully before proceeding with the Course selection process below. This also serves as a guide for selecting the courses in the forms below:

	1	2	3	4	5	6th
A	English LIT SL; English LAL SL	Any group 2 SL	Any group 3 SL	Chemistry HL	Mathematics HL A&A	Biology HL; Physics HL
B	English LIT SL; English LAL SL	Any group 2 SL	Any group 3 HL	Chemistry HL	Mathematics SL A&A	Biology HL; Physics HL
C	English LIT SL; English LAL SL	Any group 2 SL	Any group 3 HL	Biology HL; Chemistry HL	Mathematics SL A&A	Any group 3 HL
D	English LIT HL	Any group 2 SL	Any group 3 HL	Any group 4 SL	Mathematics SL A&I	Any group 3 HL; Arts HL
E	English LIT HL	Any group 2 SL	Any group 3 HL	Any group 4 HL	Mathematics SL A&A	Any group 3 SL; Arts SL
F	English LIT HL	French B HL	Any group 3 HL	Any group 4 SL	Mathematics SL A&I	Any group 3 SL; Arts SL
G	English LIT SL; English LAL SL	Any group 2 SL	Any group 3 HL	Any group 4 HL	Mathematics HL A&A	Any group 3 or 4 SL; Arts SL
H	English LIT HL	Any group 2 SL	Any group 3 HL	Any group 4 SL	Mathematics SL A&I	Any group 3 HL
I	English LIT SL; English LAL SL	Any group 2 SL	Any group 3 SL	Physics HL	Mathematics HL A&A	Computer Science HL
J	English LIT SL; English LAL SL	Any group 2 SL	Any group 3 HL	Any group 4 HL	Mathematics SL A&I	Arts HL
K (Ethiopia, Tanzania, Burundi)	Amharic LIT SL; Swahili LIT SL; French LAL SL	English B HL	Any group 3 HL	Any group 4 HL	Mathematics SL A&I	Any group 3 or 4 SL; Arts SL
L (Kenya)	English LIT SL; English LAL SL	Swahili B HL	Any group 3 HL	Any group 4 HL	Mathematics SL A&I	Any group 3 or 4 SL; Arts SL

NB #1: Students who do not want to pursue a group 6 course must choose one more course from either group 3 or group 4 instead.

Kindly confirm menu choice as per the course menu guide provided above. *

Kindly confirm menu choice as per the course menu guide provided above. *

Select a course menu

Group One (Language & Literature) *

- English A: Literature HL
- English A: Literature SL
- English A: Language and Literature SL
- Amharic A: Literature SL
- Swahili A: Literature SL
- French A: Language and Literature SL

Group Four (Sciences) *

- Biology HL
- Biology SL
- Chemistry HL
- Chemistry SL
- Physics HL
- Physics SL
- Computer Science HL
- Computer Science SL

Group Two (Language Acquisition) *

- French B HL
- French B SL
- Spanish ab initio SL
- Swahili B HL
- Swahili ab initio SL
- English B HL

Group Five (Mathematics) *

- Mathematics HL Analysis & Approches (A&A)
- Mathematics HL Applications & Interpretation (A&I)
- Mathematics SL Analysis & Approches (A&A)
- Mathematics SL Applications & Interpretation (A&I)

Group Three (Individuals & Societies) *

- Social & Cultural Anthropology HL
- Social & Cultural Anthropology SL
- Economics HL
- Economics SL
- Geography HL
- Geography SL
- History HL
- History SL
- Information Technology in Global Society HL
- Information Technology in Global Society SL

Group Six (Choose One more from either Group 3 or Group 4 if your choice does not lie within Group 6))

- Visual Arts HL
- Visual Arts SL
- Theatre HL
- Theatre SL
- Music HL
- Music SL

IB Diploma Programme

Course Choices and Menus 2020-22